



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2 ILLEGAL ALIENS INDICTED FOR CONSPIRING TO DISTRIBUTE AT LEAST 1.5 KILOS OF METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexican nationals were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine and illegally possessing firearms.

Daniel Lara Munoz, 28, and **Jesus Sanchez Tapia**, 22, both Mexican nationals, were charged in a nine-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Munoz** and **Tapia** conspired to distribute at least 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between April 1 and Dec. 17, 2004.

Counts Two, Three, Four, Five and Six of the federal indictment allege that **Munoz** and **Tapia** distributed methamphetamine on April 26, May 13, July 14, July 29, and Dec. 15, 2004, respectively.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Munoz** and **Tapia** illegally possessed firearms on April 1, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any illegal alien to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Munoz** and **Tapia** are illegal aliens from Mexico and that they were in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a Colt .38-caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Munoz** and **Tapia** illegally possessed firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime between April 1, 2004, and Dec. 17, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person to be in possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. The indictment alleges that **Munoz** and **Tapia** illegally possessed a Smith and Wesson .357-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a Colt .38-caliber semi-automatic pistol during the course of the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Count Nine of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count and would require **Munoz** and **Tapia** to forfeit all property derived from the proceeds of Counts One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six of the federal indictment, including \$11,140 seized from the defendants during search warrants executed at 6910 E. 17th St. and 1118 S. Norton, both in Kansas City, and a 2000 Dodge Charger.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow